

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a photoreceptor drum on which, in a driven state, an electrostatic latent image of an image for image formation is optically formed;

developing means which, in a driven state, toner-develops the electrostatic latent image formed on the photoreceptor drum;

transfer means for, in a driven state, transferring to an image recording medium the developed image obtained by toner development by the developing means; and

control means which, when instruction information for instructing formation of the developed image on a plurality of sheets of the image recording medium is inputted, controls driving of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means and the transfer means such that formation of the developed image on the plurality of sheets of the image recording medium according to the instruction information is continuously performed, and controls driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means such that, in the course of the continuous image formation, driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means is halted at least once.

2. The image forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control means controls at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means such that, every time the number of continuously image-formed sheets reaches a prescribed number of sheets of the image recording medium, at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means is halted for a prescribed period of time.

3. The image forming apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a fuser, which fixes the developed image transferred to the image recording medium on the image recording medium by heat, wherein

the prescribed number of sheets and the prescribed period of time are determined as those with which image formation on the image recording medium can be continuously performed by the prescribed number of sheets without the fuser exceeding a prescribed temperature.

4. The image forming apparatus of claim 2 or claim 3, further comprising:

specification means for specifying a type of the image recording medium,

memory means which stores in advance the prescribed number of sheets and the prescribed

period of time according to the type of the image recording medium for each type of the image recording medium, wherein

the control means carries out the control by reading out the prescribed number of sheets and the prescribed period of time according to the type of the image recording medium that has been specified by the specification means from the memory means.

5. The image forming apparatus of claim 4, wherein the type of the image recording medium is the type according to at least one of a size of the image recording medium, a thickness of the image recording medium, or a material of the image recording medium.

6. The image forming apparatus of any one of claim 1 to claim 3, further comprising specification means for specifying whether a type of the image recording medium is a first type of predetermined regular size, or a second type of non-regular size, other than the regular size, wherein,

when the type of the image recording medium is specified to be the second type by the specification means, the control means controls driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means such that, in the course of the continuous image formation, driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means is halted at least once.

7. The image forming apparatus of claim 4, wherein the specification means further specifies whether the type of the image recording medium is a first type of predetermined regular size, or a second type of non-regular size other than the regular size, and

the control means controls driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means such that, in the course of the continuous image formation, driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means is halted at least once.

8. The image forming apparatus of any one of claim 4 to claim 7, further comprising inputting means for inputting information which indicates the type of the image recording medium, wherein

the specification means performs the specification on the basis of the type of the image recording medium inputted by the inputting means.

9. The image forming apparatus of claim 1, further comprising inputting means for inputting image information and the instruction information, wherein,

an electrostatic latent image is optically formed on the photoreceptor drum on the basis of the image information inputted by the inputting means and,

when the instruction information is inputted by the inputting means, the control means controls driving of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means and the transfer means such that formation of the developed image on the plurality of sheets of the image recording medium according to the instruction information is continuously performed, and controls driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means such that, in the course of the continuous image formation, driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means is halted at least once.

10. An image formation method for an image forming apparatus, comprising a photoreceptor drum on which, in a driven state, an electrostatic latent image of an image for image formation is optically formed; developing means which, in a driven state, toner-develops the electrostatic latent image formed on the photoreceptor drum; and transfer means for, in a driven state, transferring a developed image obtained by toner development by the developing means to an image recording medium, including:

when instruction information for instructing formation of the developed image on a plurality of sheets of the image recording medium is inputted, controlling driving of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means and the transfer means such that formation of a developed image on a plurality of sheets of the image recording medium according to the instruction information is continuously performed, and controlling driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means such that, in the course of the continuous image formation, driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means is halted at least once.

11. The image formation method of claim 10, further including:

controlling at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means such that, every time the number of continuously image-formed sheets reaches a prescribed number of sheets of the image recording medium, at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means is halted for a prescribed period of time.

12. The image formation method of claim 10 or claim 11, further comprising:

specifying whether a type of the image recording medium is a first type of predetermined regular size, or a second type of non-regular size other than the regular size, and

controlling driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means such that, in the course of the continuous image formation, driving of at least one of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means or the transfer means is halted at least once.